

110TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. R. 5524

To amend the Runaway and Homeless Youth Act to authorize appropriations,
and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

MARCH 4, 2008

Mr. YARMUTH (for himself, Mrs. BIGGERT, Mr. GRIJALVA, Mr. HINOJOSA, Mr. COHEN, Ms. BERKLEY, Mr. CHANDLER, Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD, Mr. HOLT, Ms. SCHAKOWSKY, Ms. BORDALLO, and Mr. DAVIS of Illinois) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Education and Labor

A BILL

To amend the Runaway and Homeless Youth Act to
authorize appropriations, and for other purposes.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “Reconnecting Home-
5 less Youth Act of 2008”.

6 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

7 Section 302 of the Runaway and Homeless Youth Act
8 (42 U.S.C. 5701) is amended—

1 (1) by redesignating paragraphs (3), (4), and
2 (5) as paragraphs (4), (5), and (6), respectively, and
3 (2) by inserting after paragraph (2) the fol-
4 lowing:

5 “(3) services to such young people should be de-
6 veloped and provided using a positive youth develop-
7 ment approach that ensures the young person a
8 sense of—

9 “(A) safety and structure;

10 “(B) belonging and membership;

11 “(C) self-worth and social contribution;

12 “(D) independence and control over one’s
13 life; and

14 “(E) closeness in interpersonal relation-
15 ships.”.

16 **SEC. 3. BASIC CENTER PROGRAM.**

17 (a) SERVICES PROVIDED.—Section 311(a) of the
18 Runaway and Homeless Youth Act (42 U.S.C. 5711(a))
19 is amended—

20 (1) by amending paragraph (2)(B)(i) to read as
21 follows:

22 “(i) safe and appropriate shelter pro-
23 vided not to exceed 15 days, or not to ex-
24 ceed 21 days if the center is located in a
25 State or locality with a child or youth-serv-

1 ing-facility licensure law or regulation that
2 permits a length of stay in excess of 15
3 days; and”, and

4 (2) in subsection (b)(2)—

5 (A) by striking “\$100,000” and inserting
6 “\$150,000”,

7 (B) by striking “\$45,000” and inserting
8 “\$70,000”, and

9 (C) by adding at the end the following:

10 “Whenever the Secretary determines than any part of the
11 amount allotted under paragraph (1) with respect to a
12 State will not be obligated before the end of the fiscal year,
13 the Secretary shall reallocate such part with respect to the
14 remaining States for obligation for such fiscal year.”.

15 (b) ELIGIBILITY.—Section 312(b) of the Runaway
16 and Homeless Youth Act (42 U.S.C. 5712(b)) is amend-
17 ed—

18 (1) in paragraph (11) by striking “and” at the
19 end,

20 (2) in paragraph (12) by striking the period
21 and inserting “; and”, and

22 (3) by adding at the end the following:

23 “(13) shall develop an adequate emergency pre-
24 paredness and management plan.”.

1 (c) DEFINITION.—Section 387(3)(A) of the Runaway
2 and Homeless Youth Act (42 U.S.C. 5732a(3)(A)) is
3 amended—

4 (1) in clause (i)—

5 (A) by striking “not more than 21” and
6 inserting “less than 22”;

7 (B) by striking “not more than 18” and
8 inserting “less than 18”; and

9 (C) by inserting “unless the center is lo-
10 cated in a State or locality with a child- or
11 youth-serving facility licensure law or regulation
12 that permits a higher age” before the semi-
13 colon; and

14 (2) in clause (ii) by inserting “less than 22
15 years of age and” after “part B,”.

16 **SEC. 4. TRANSITIONAL LIVING GRANT PROGRAM.**

17 (a) ELIGIBILITY.—Section 322(a) of the Runaway
18 and Homeless Youth Act (42 U.S.C. 5714–2(a)) is amend-
19 ed—

20 (1) in paragraph (2)—

21 (A) by striking “, except” and inserting
22 “(except”, and

23 (B) by striking “period;” and inserting the
24 following:

1 “period) or, if the program is located in a State or
 2 locality with a child- or youth-serving facility licen-
 3 sure law or regulation that permits a length of stay
 4 in excess of such 540-day period, a continuous pe-
 5 riod not to exceed 635 days;”,

6 (2) in paragraph (14) by striking “and” at the
 7 end,

8 (3) in paragraph (15) by striking the period
 9 and inserting “; and”, and

10 (4) by adding at the end the following:

11 “(16) to develop an adequate emergency pre-
 12 paredness and management plan.”.

13 **SEC. 5. COORDINATING, TRAINING, RESEARCH, AND OTHER**
 14 **ACTIVITIES.**

15 Part D of the Runaway and Homeless Youth Act (42
 16 U.S.C. 5714–21 et seq.) is amended by adding at the end
 17 the following:

18 **“SEC. 345. PERIODIC ESTIMATE OF INCIDENCE AND PREVA-**
 19 **LENCE OF YOUTH HOMELESSNESS.**

20 “(a) PERIODIC ESTIMATE.—Not later than 2 years
 21 after the effective date of this section and at 5-year inter-
 22 vals thereafter, the Secretary shall prepare, and submit
 23 to the Speaker of the House of Representatives and the
 24 President pro tempore of the Senate, a written report—

1 “(1) by using the best quantitative and quali-
2 tative social science research method available, con-
3 taining an estimate of the incidence and prevalence
4 of runaway and homeless individuals who are less
5 than 26 years of age and not less than 13 years of
6 age; and

7 “(2) that includes with such estimate an assess-
8 ment of the characteristics of such individuals.

9 “(b) CONTENT.—Each assessment required by sub-
10 section (a) shall include—

11 “(1) the results of conducting a survey of, and
12 direct interviews with, a representative sample of
13 runaway and homeless individuals who are less than
14 26 years of age and not less than 13 years of age
15 to determine past and current—

16 “(A) socioeconomic characteristics of such
17 individuals;

18 “(B) barriers to such individuals obtain-
19 ing—

20 “(i) safe, quality, and affordable hous-
21 ing;

22 “(ii) comprehensive and affordable
23 health insurance and health services; and

1 “(iii) incomes, public benefits, sup-
2 portive services, and connections to caring
3 adults; and

4 “(C) such other information that the Sec-
5 retary determines, in consultation with States,
6 units of local government, and national non-
7 governmental organizations concerned with
8 homelessness, may be useful.

9 “(c) IMPLEMENTATION.—If the Secretary enters into
10 any contract with a non-Federal entity for purposes of car-
11 rying out subsection (a), such entity shall be a nongovern-
12 mental organization, or an individual, determined by the
13 Secretary to have appropriate expertise in quantitative
14 and qualitative social science research.”.

15 **SEC. 6. REPORT.**

16 (a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 2 years after the
17 date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Health
18 and Human Services shall submit to the Speaker of the
19 House of Representatives and the President pro tempore
20 of the Senate, a report based on the best quantitative re-
21 search method available and containing an estimate of—

22 (1) the public service costs, including law en-
23 forcement, emergent and urgent health services (in-
24 cluding crisis mental health and substance abuse
25 services), child welfare services, juvenile and criminal

1 justice services, and public income benefits costs, at-
 2 tributable to such services being provided to run-
 3 away and homeless individuals who are less than 26
 4 years of age and not less than 13 years of age, and

5 (2) the extent to which the public service cost
 6 reductions offset the costs of providing family reuni-
 7 fication, emergency shelter, transitional housing,
 8 permanent housing, and supportive services to such
 9 individuals.

10 (b) IMPLEMENTATION.—If the Secretary carries out
 11 subsection (a) by contract with an non-Federal entity,
 12 such entity shall be a nongovernmental organization or an
 13 individual determined by the Secretary to have appro-
 14 priate expertise in quantitative and qualitative social
 15 science research.

16 **SEC. 7. NATIONAL HOMELESS YOUTH AWARENESS CAM-**
 17 **PAIGN.**

18 The Runaway and Homeless Youth Act (42 U.S.C.
 19 5601 et seq.) is amended—

20 (1) by redesignating part F as part G,

21 (2) by inserting after part E the following:

1 **“PART F—NATIONAL HOMELESS YOUTH**

2 **AWARENESS CAMPAIGN**

3 **“SEC. 361. NATIONAL HOMELESS YOUTH AWARENESS CAM-**
4 **PAIGN.**

5 “(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall, directly or
6 via contract, conduct a national homeless youth awareness
7 campaign (referred to in this section as the ‘national
8 awareness campaign’) in accordance with this section for
9 purposes of—

10 “(1) preventing runaway and homeless situa-
11 tions among youth in the United States;

12 “(2) increasing awareness of individuals of all
13 ages of the issues facing youth in runaway and
14 homeless situations;

15 “(3) assisting youth in crisis situations learn
16 about resources and services available in their com-
17 munities to intervene in or resolve the crisis; and

18 “(4) encouraging parents and guardians, edu-
19 cators, health care professionals, social service pro-
20 fessionals, law enforcement officials, and other inter-
21 ested adults to assist youth in averting or resolving
22 runaway and homeless situations.

23 “(b) USE OF FUNDS.—

24 “(1) IN GENERAL.—Amounts made available to
25 carry out this section for the national awareness
26 campaign may only be used for the following:

1 “(A) The purchase of media time and
2 space, including the strategic planning for, and
3 accounting of, such purchases.

4 “(B) Creative and talent costs.

5 “(C) Advertising production costs.

6 “(D) Testing and evaluation of advertising.

7 “(E) Evaluation of the effectiveness of the
8 national media campaign.

9 “(F) The negotiated fees for the winning
10 bidder on requests for proposals issued by the
11 Secretary to enter into contracts to carry out
12 activities authorized by this section.

13 “(G) Partnerships with national organiza-
14 tions concerned with youth homelessness, com-
15 munity-based youth service organizations, in-
16 cluding faith-based organizations, and govern-
17 ment organizations related to the national
18 awareness campaign.

19 “(H) Outreach activities to stakeholders
20 and potential stakeholders in the national
21 awareness campaign.

22 “(I) Operational and management ex-
23 penses.

24 “(2) SPECIFIC REQUIREMENTS.—

1 “(A) TESTING AND EVALUATION OF AD-
2 VERTISING.—In using amounts for testing and
3 evaluation of advertising under paragraph
4 (1)(D), the Secretary shall test all advertise-
5 ments prior to use in the national awareness
6 campaign to ensure that the advertisements are
7 effective and meet industry-accepted standards.

8 “(B) EVALUATION OF EFFECTIVENESS OF
9 AWARENESS CAMPAIGN.—In using amounts for
10 the evaluation of the effectiveness of the na-
11 tional awareness campaign under paragraph
12 (1)(E), the Secretary shall—

13 “(i) designate an independent entity
14 to evaluate the effectiveness of the national
15 awareness campaign; and

16 “(ii) ensure that the effectiveness of
17 the national awareness campaign is evalu-
18 ated in a manner that enables consider-
19 ation of whether the national awareness
20 has contributed to reducing runaway and
21 homeless situations among youth, linking
22 runaway and homeless youth to resources
23 and services available in their communities,
24 and such other measures of evaluation as

1 the Secretary determinates are appro-
2 priate.

3 “(c) PROHIBITIONS.—None of the amounts made
4 available under subsection (b) may be obligated or ex-
5 pended for any of the following:

6 “(1) To supplant pro bono public service time
7 donated by national and local broadcasting networks
8 for the national awareness campaign.

9 “(2) For partisan political purposes, or express
10 advocacy in support of or to defeat any clearly iden-
11 tified candidate, clearly identified ballot initiative, or
12 clearly identified legislative or regulatory proposal.

13 “(3) To fund advertising that features any
14 elected officials, persons seeking elected office, cabi-
15 net level officials, or other Federal employees em-
16 ployed pursuant to section 213 of Schedule C of title
17 5, Code of Federal Regulations.

18 “(4) To fund advertising that does not contain
19 a primary message intended to reduce or prevent
20 runaway and homeless situations among youth.

21 “(5) To fund advertising that solicits contribu-
22 tions from both public and private sources to sup-
23 port the national awareness campaign.

24 “(d) FINANCIAL AND PERFORMANCE ACCOUNT-
25 ABILITY.—The Secretary shall cause to be performed—

1 “(1) audits and reviews of costs of the national
2 awareness campaign pursuant to section 304C of the
3 Federal Property and Administrative Services Act of
4 1949 (41 U.S.C. 254d); and

5 “(2) an audit to determine whether the costs of
6 the national awareness campaign are allowable
7 under section 306 of such Act (41 U.S.C. 256).

8 “(e) REPORT.—The Secretary shall include in each
9 report submitted under section 381(a) a summary of the
10 national awareness campaign that describes—

11 “(1) the strategy of the national awareness
12 campaign and whether specific objectives of the
13 media campaign were accomplished;

14 “(2) steps taken to ensure that the national
15 awareness campaign operates in an effective and ef-
16 ficient manner consistent with the overall strategy
17 and focus of the national awareness campaign;

18 “(3) plans to purchase advertising time and
19 space;

20 “(4) policies and practices implemented to en-
21 sure that Federal funds are used responsibly to pur-
22 chase advertising time and space and eliminate the
23 potential for waste, fraud, and abuse; and

“(5) all contracts entered into with a corporation, partnership, or individual working on behalf of the national awareness campaign.”, and

(3) in section 388(a)—

(A) in paragraph (1) by striking “part E” and inserting “parts E and F”, and

(B) by adding at the end the following:

“(5) PART F.—There are authorized to be appropriated to carry out part F \$3,000,000 for fiscal years 2009, 2010, 2011, 2012, and 2013.”.

SEC. 8. GRANTS FOR RESEARCH EVALUATION, DEMONSTRATION, AND SERVICE PROJECTS.

Section 343(b) Runaway and Homeless Youth Act (42 U.S.C. 5714–23(b)) is amended to read as follows:

“(b) PRIORITIES.—The Secretary—

“(1) shall establish priorities for making grants for purposes of carrying out projects under subsection (a); and

“(2) not later than 1 year after the effective date of this subsection and at 2-year intervals thereafter, shall provide an opportunity for public comment concerning the priorities proposed under paragraph (1) and maintain an official record of such public comment.”.

1 **SEC. 9. SEXUAL ABUSE PREVENTION PROGRAM.**

2 Section 351(b) Runaway and Homeless Youth Act
3 (42 U.S.C. 5714–41(b)) is amended by inserting “public
4 and” after “priority to”.

5 **SEC. 10. PERFORMANCE STANDARDS.**

6 Part G, as so redesignated, of Runaway and Home-
7 less Youth Act (42 U.S.C. 5714a et seq.) is amended by
8 adding at the end the following:

9 **“SEC. 390. PERFORMANCE STANDARDS.**

10 “(a) ESTABLISHMENT OF PERFORMANCE STAND-
11 ARDS.—Not later than 2 years after the effective date of
12 this section, the Secretary shall issue rules that specify
13 standards of performance for public and nonprofit private
14 entities that receive grants under sections 311, 321 and
15 351.

16 “(b) CONSULTATION.—The Secretary shall consult
17 with representatives of public and nonprofit entities that
18 receive grants under this title, statewide and regional non-
19 profit organizations (and combinations of such organiza-
20 tions) that receive grants under this title, and national
21 nonprofit organizations concerned with youth homeless-
22 ness in developing the performance standards required by
23 subsection (a).

24 “(c) PUBLIC COMMENT.—The Secretary shall provide
25 an opportunity for public comment concerning the estab-
26 lishment of the performance standards required by sub-

1 section (a) before issuing rules to establish such standards
2 and shall maintain an official record of such public com-
3 ment.”.

4 **SEC. 11. APPEALS.**

5 Part G, as so redesignated and as amended by section
6 10, of Runaway and Homeless Youth Act (42 U.S.C.
7 5714a et seq.) is amended by adding at the end the fol-
8 lowing:

9 **“SEC. 391. APPEALS.**

10 “(a) ESTABLISHMENT OF APPEAL PROCEDURE.—
11 Not later than 2 years after the effective date of this sec-
12 tion, the Secretary shall establish by rule a timely appeal
13 procedure applicable to review the amounts of grants
14 made, and the denial of grants requested, under this title.

15 “(b) CONSULTATION.—The Secretary shall consult
16 with representatives of public and nonprofit private enti-
17 ties that receive grants under this title, statewide and re-
18 gional nonprofit organizations (and combinations of such
19 organizations) that receive grants under this title, and na-
20 tional nonprofit organizations concerned with youth home-
21 lessness in establishing the appeal procedure required by
22 subsection (a).

23 “(c) PUBLIC COMMENT.—The Secretary shall provide
24 an opportunity for public comment concerning the estab-
25 lishment of the appeal procedure required by subsection

1 (a) before issuing rules to establish such procedure and
2 shall maintain an official record of such public comment.”.

3 **SEC. 12. DEFINITION.**

4 Section 387 Runaway and Homeless Youth Act (42
5 U.S.C. 5732a) is amended—

6 (1) by redesignating paragraphs (4), (5), (6),
7 and (7) as paragraphs (5), (6), (7), and (8), respec-
8 tively, and

9 (2) by inserting after paragraph (3) the fol-
10 lowing:

11 “(4) RUNAWAY YOUTH.—The term ‘runaway
12 youth’ means an individual who is less than 18 years
13 of age and who absents himself or herself from home
14 or place of legal residence without the permission of
15 parents or legal guardians.”.

16 **SEC. 13. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.**

17 Section 388(a) Runaway and Homeless Youth Act
18 (42 U.S.C. 5751(a)) is amended—

19 (1) in paragraph (1)—

20 (A) by striking “\$105,000,000 for fiscal
21 year 2004” and inserting “\$150,000,000 for
22 fiscal year 2009”, and

23 (B) by striking “2005, 2006, 2007, and
24 2008” and inserting “2010, 2011, 2012, and
25 2013” , and

1 (2) in paragraph (4) by striking “such sums as
2 may be necessary for fiscal years 2004, 2005, 2006,
3 2007, and 2008” and inserting “\$30,000,000 for
4 fiscal year 2009 and such sums as may be necessary
5 for fiscal years 2010, 2011, 2012, and 2013”.

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